Course Guide: Philosophy of Religion

Instructor: Dr Patrick Todd
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Assessment:

Midterm essay, 40%, due: Thursday 25th October 2018, by 12pm
1500 word limit.
Final essay, 60%, due: Thursday 13th December 2018, by 12pm
2500 word limit.

Lecture: Thursday 2 PM – 4 PM, David Hume Tower LG.11

Course description:

In this course, we will cover some of the major developments within the philosophy of religion over the last 50 years. The focus of this course is on (1) the concept of God, (2) divine attributes, (3) arguments for the existence of God, small sections on (4) God and morality and (5) religious belief, and (6) aspects of the problem of evil.

Schedule: (readings are all required [except 'background readings'], but are listed roughly in order of importance)

**Week 1. The Concept of God**


**Week 2. Omnipotence**


**Week 3. Omniscience**
Week 4. Theistic Arguments I: Ontological Arguments

Anselm, Chapter 2 of *Proslogion* (This is just one page; it is widely available via Google search.)


Background reading: SEP, Ontological Arguments: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ontological-arguments/

Week 5. Cosmological Arguments and the Principle of Sufficient Reason


Background reading: SEP, Cosmological Arguments. (Skip Section 5.)
https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/cosmological-argument/#TypoCosmArgu

Week 6. God and Morality


**Week 7. Religious Belief**


**Week 8: The Problem of Evil I**


**Week 9: The Problem of Evil II**


**Week 10: Providence and Divine Standing to Blame**

Patrick Todd, “Does God have the moral standing to blame?” forthcoming, *Faith and Philosophy*. (on Learn)

**Week 11: Revision**